बैंक ने आगे बताया है कि सभी आवेदन-पत्रों का निपटान कर दिया गया है और उपर्युक्त राज्यों के संबंध में उसके पास कोई मामला लंबित नहीं है।

**Filling Up of SC/ST Vacancies in RBI and MOF**

2492. SHRI MOHINDRA SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the vacancies reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Class I, II, III in the Reserve Bank of India and in the Ministry of Finance have been filled;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on 28th February, 1997 and if not, what steps are being taken to fill these vacancies; and

(c) whether any time bound programme will be set for filling up the reserved vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Guarantee amount deposits of Peerless Finance Corporation**

2493. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the guarantee amount deposits of Peerless Finance Corporation with RBI as on date;

(b) whether it is a fact that the company has been forced to revise its schemes in order to give protection to LIC, a public sector company; and

(c) the status of proposals received from private and multinationals in insurance sector in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that there is no concept of guarantee amount deposit of Peerless Finance Corporation with RBI as on date.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Steps to improve functioning of Insurance Companies**

2494. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to improve the operation of insurance companies in the nationalised sector;

(b) whether any effort has been made to make LIC customer-friendly;

(c) whether it is a fact that there has been no change in the forms, procedures, etc. of LIC in the last 35 years; and

(d) what steps are proposed to improve functioning of LIC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) After a long interval of time, LIC and GIC have been given the full complement of Board members. Government has already announced in the Budget Speech its intention to grant substantial autonomy to LIC and GIC and its subsidiaries, including the power to make non-scheduled non-consctium investments, to determine the terms and conditions of service of their employees and agents, to make regulations and other related powers, and to permit LIC and GIC to enter into joint-ventures in the pension and health insurance business. Further, a Bill has already been introduced in the Lok Saba on 20.12.1996 to give a statutory status to the Insurance Regulatory Authority.

(b) to (d) The LIC have reported that they are providing microprocessor based Front-End-Computer systems in the branches to expedite issue of policies and settlement of claims to the customers. They have launched human resource development programmes to train officers, staff and agents to make them more